

LAOS SITUATION

1

STRENGTHS

Viet Minh forces in Laos - about 24,800

(31 Battalions - 800 men/Bn)

French forces - 7500 - stationed in Laos

2900 \* - recent reinforcements

10,400 - in 13 Bns

Laotian forces - 8000 - Regular Army

5500 - National Guard

13,500 - in 6 Bns

\* \* \* \* \*

DISPOSITIONS

Franco-Lao:

Luang Prabang - 4 Bns - 3200

Pak Hou (or Mekong) - 1 Bn - 800

Vientiane - 1 Bn - 800

Plaine des Jarres/  
Xieng Khouang / 7 Bns - 5600

\* \* \* \* \*

2

DISPOSITIONS (Continued)

VIET MINH:-

At Plaine des Jarres - 15 Bns - 12,000

Enroute Luang Prabang - from<sup>N</sup>/ - 2 Bns - 1600

from E - 6 Bns - 4800

Elsewhere in Laos - 6 - 7 Bns - 5400

3

DEVELOPEMENTS

French trying to hold Luang Prabang - have added 3 Bns (2400) to defenses to face converging Viet Minh forces of 8 Bns (6400) coming from NE (2 Bns) & E on Route Coloniale 7 (6 Bns)

Viet Minh announce Pathet (Free) Lao Government under Souphanouvong, brother of Laotian Prime Minister (Souphanouphouma)

Laotian government at Luang Prabang declares it will stay and fight; French fear capture of King Sisavong will give Viet Minh useful puppet.

Thailand becoming concerned at Viet Minh threat - may take measures against 50-60,000 pro Viet Minh Vietnamese in Northeast Thailand along Mekong

Considerable pressure in Thailand to take question to UN.